

## Out & About: Early music festival, comedy top listings

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“Women in Jeopardy” is a wonderful stage comedy that opened the 2019-2020 season at the Public Theatre of Lewiston-Auburn this past weekend. Gales of laughter continue through Sunday.

We’ve just flipped open the 2019-2020 theater calendar, and already I’ve picked a primo candidate for funniest show of the season: The Public Theatre of Lewiston-Auburn’s fully professional production of Wendy MacLeod’s “Women in Jeopardy,” where repeated gales of laughter begin in the first minute after opening curtain and continue through the denouement.

Penned by a noted feminist playwright, “Women in Jeopardy” explores and comically exploits common plights among recently divorced mothers in their mid-40s. But rather than focusing on bitter memories and midlife angst, MacLeod’s play looks forward to the future and the sometimes hilarious consequences of finding new love while dealing with the detritus of the old.

In classic dramatic fashion, the plot involves an outsider – in this case, a possible second husband for one of the three women – who makes big waves in a quiet millpond, then a host of comic complications ensue. Plus in the offstage background is the mysterious disappearance and brutal death of an unseen young female.

Director Chris Schario gets topnotch performances from the core trio of divorced women characters whose antics drive the plot: actresses Amanda Ryan Paige, Janet Mitchko and Heather Dilly. Great supporting performances are given by Torsten Hillhouse as a lusty middle-aged dentist with some very off-putting personal quirks, Tom Harney as a clueless millennial snowboarder and Nicole Fava as the stereotypical young dumb blonde with some very contemporary twists.

The Public Theatre, 31 Maple St. in Lewiston, presents “Women in Jeopardy” through Oct. 27 with 7:30 p.m. performances Thursday and Friday, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Call 782-3200.



Amanda Ryan Paige, Heather Dilly and Torsten Hillhouse in *Women in Jeopardy*